

C. BACKGROUND

By the Action, the PTO has:

1. Allowed Claim 30;
2. Rejected Claims 16, 18, 19, 20 and 22 through 26 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph; and
3. Objected to Claims 16 and 30.¹

By this amendment, Applicant has amended Claims 16 and 30 to overcome the rejection of Claims 16, 18, 19, 20 and 22 through 26, and the objection to Claims 16 and 30.

¹ Page 1 of the Action indicates that the examiner has objected to the specification. However, other than the objection to Claims 16 and 30 in the body of the Action, the Action does not raise an objection to the specification, separate from the claims. Consequently, the undersigned has interpreted the indication on Page 1 of an objection to the specification to mean the objection to Claims 16 and 30 raised in the body of the Action.

D. REMARKS

1. Telephone Conferences

The undersigned appreciates the telephone discussions the examiner conducted with the undersigned, at the request of the undersigned, to provide elaboration by the examiner on the bases for the examiner's objections to Claims 16 and 30, and the rejection of Claims 16, 18, 19, 20 and 22 through 26 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

2. Objection to Claims 16 and 30

As requested by the examiner, Claim 16 has been amended to insert “the” before “at” in line 25.

Rather than accepting the examiner’s suggestion as to line 26 of Claim 16, lines 6 and 7 of Claim 16 have been amended to address the examiner’s concern.

Applicant has addressed the examiner’s concern regarding the use of “their” in the next to last line of Claim 30 by specifying in lines 4 and 5 of amended Claim 30 that the mat panels define a total of at least 4 holes, and eliminating the word “their” in the next to last line of Claim 30.

Reconsideration of the objection to Claims 16 and 30 is respectfully requested.

3. Rejection of Claims 16, 18, 19, 20 and 22 through 26 under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

Applicant has amended Claim 16 to address the concerns of the examiner regarding compliance with Section 112, second paragraph. As with Claim 30, Claim 16 now recites that the lower prong members extend into the holes in the mat panels. Consequently, Claim 16 now more clearly recites a system, and not simply a listing of parts.

Claim 16 now also recites that the connector has at least two two-prong connector units. Consequently, the recitation at lines 25 and 26 of another two-prong connector unit is no longer problematic.

Claims 18, 19, 20 and 22 through 26 depend from Claim 16. Therefore, those claims also are now more fully in compliance with Section 112, second paragraph.

Reconsideration of the rejection of Claims 16, 18, 19, 20 and 22 through 26 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

E. CONCLUSION

Claims 16, 18, 19, 20 and 22 through 26 and 30 are in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested.

The undersigned hereby authorizes the United States Patent and Trademark Office to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-0287 any fee required to file and enter this amendment or for any additional claims, and the fee for the required extension.

Respectfully submitted,

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